

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tube retainer assembly comprising:
 - a tube having:
 - an open end,
 - a first external surface extending from the open end and having a first diameter, and
 - a reduced diameter portion adjacent the first external surface and having a second diameter less than the first diameter
 - an elongated external surface adjacent the reduced diameter portion having a third diameter substantially equal to the first diameter,
 - wherein the reduced diameter portion defines a retention groove formed in and lying below the first external surface and the elongated external surface; adjacent an open end of the tube; ; and
 - a holding clamp configured as a flat plate having an a substantially circular aperture formed therein and a slot extending outwardly from the substantially circular aperture without intersecting a periphery of the flat plate, wherein the reduced diameter portion of the tube is disposed in the slot is configured for engaging the retention groove.
2. (Currently Amended) A tube retainer assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retention groove is annular.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) A tube retainer assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tube further comprises a sealing groove formed in the elongated external surface thereof interposed between the retention groove and the open end of the tube, wherein the sealing groove is adapted to receive sealing means.

6. (Currently Amended) A tube retainer assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sealing means is an O-ring.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An assembly including the~~ ~~The~~ tube retainer assembly of claim 1, ~~the assembly~~ further including a device, ~~said device~~ having an inlet/outlet port therein for receiving ~~said~~ the tube.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a tube retainer as claimed in claim 1, comprising the steps of:

providing a tube;

forming a retention groove in the external surface of said tube, adjacent the open end of said tube; and

providing a flat plate and forming a slot in said flat plate to form a clamping plate.

9. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 8, comprising a further step of:

forming a second seal groove in the external surface of the tube, said second seal groove being formed such that it is suitable for receiving sealing means.

10. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 9, whereby the second sealing groove is formed in the external surface of the tube between the retention groove and the adjacent open end of the tube.

11. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 8, whereby at least one of the retention groove and second seal groove is formed in the external surface by rolling a groove therein.

12. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 8, whereby at least one of the retention groove and second seal groove is formed in the external surface by cutting a groove therein.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of retaining a tube to engage a device comprising:

forming a retention groove adjacent to an end of the tube;

forming a slot in a holding clamp to engage said annular retention groove; and attaching said holding clamp with the tube to the device.

14. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 12, whereby the retention groove is annular.

15. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising forming a second seal groove between said retention groove and said end of said tube for receiving sealing means.

16. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said slot extends from an aperture formed in said flat plate.

17. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 13, whereby the retention groove is annular.

18. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:
forming a second seal groove between said retention groove and said end of said tube for receiving sealing means.